Transcontinental Railroad

Primary Sources

* + Map of the United States during the 1860s when construction first began (students can see the difference between states and territories and why there was a need to connect the coasts.)
    - <http://etc.usf.edu/maps/pages/3300/3339/3339.pdf>
  + Geographical map of the United States (Students can see the differences in the terrain and some of the obstacles inhibiting travel before construction and can see areas where construction would be most difficult.)
    - <http://nationalatlas.gov/dynamic/dyn_green.html>
  + An excerpt from Mark Twain’s book titled *Roughing It*. (Gives a firsthand account of what travelling across the country prior to the railroad was like.)
    - <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/primary-resources/tcrr-twain/>
  + The Pacific Railway Act 1862 (Government incentive for construction.)
    - <http://www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/resources/archives/five/railact.htm>
  + Chinese-American contribution to railroad construction (provides an overview with firsthand accounts, plus pictures of Chinese laborers during railroad construction.)
    - <http://cprr.org/Museum/Chinese.html>
  + Central Pacific Railroad Photographic Museum (Provides accounts from the Big Four plus and array of pictures.)
    - <http://cprr.org/Museum/index.html>
  + Reports from the End of the Track (Primary sources dealing with the progress of the railroad and issues with Native Americans.)
    - <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/primary-resources/tcrr-reports/>
  + Interview of Native American historians who detail tribal life before “White” settlement and the effects of railroad construction on Native Americans.
    - <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/interview/tcrr-interview/>